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Missing the Japanese Train

Learn how to ask about timetables

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Absolute Beginner Season 2

Dialogue - Japanese

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(Masato was running for the train, but has just missed it.)

A: あーあ。

すみません。

つぎ の でんしゃ は なんじ です か。

B: 2 じ はん です。

A: 2 じ はん？

すみません、いま なんじ です か。

B: 1 じ はん です。

A: すみません。

タクシーは どこですか。

Vocabulary

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English Kana Rōmaji

すみません。 [すみません。]
Excuse me. I'm sorry.
1 EXAMPLE
ほんとうにすみません。
I'm really sorry.

タクシー [タクシー]
taxi
1 EXAMPLE
タクシー、おねがいします。
Please call me a taxi.

なんじ [なんじ]
what time
2 EXAMPLES
いまなんじ？
What time is it now? (informal)
いま、なんじですか。
What time is it now?

はん [はん]
half-past
1 EXAMPLE
ごぜん　よじはん　です。
It's 4:30a.m.

じ [じ]
---o'clock
1 EXAMPLE
２じです。
It's two o'clock.

でんしゃ [でんしゃ]
train
1 EXAMPLE
にほんのでんしゃがすきです。

I like Japanese trains.

つぎの [つぎの] 1 EXAMPLE

the next ---

つぎのバスはなんじですか。

What time does the next bus come?

どこ [どこ] 7 EXAMPLES

where

リーさん、出身はどこですか。

Mr. Lee, where are you from?

リーさん、しゅっしんはどこですか。

どこにありますか

where is there

どこにありますか

バス停はどこにありますか。

Where is the bus stop?

バスていはどこにありますか。

出身はどこですか。

Where are you from?

しゅっしんはどこですか。

出身はどこですか。

Where is your hometown?

しゅっしんはどこですか。

トイレはどこですか。

Where is the bathroom?

トイレはどこですか。

ここはどこですか。

Where are we? (Literally: Where is here?)

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Lesson Notes

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Lesson Focus

The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking about Timetables.

つぎ の でんしゃ は なんじ です か。
Tsugi no densha wa nan-ji desu ka.
"What time is the next train?"

Japanese public transport is renowned for being clean, safe, and nearly always running exactly to schedule, which makes it very easy for foreign tourists to use even if they don't speak Japanese. The phrases that come up in this lesson will definitely come in handy when you go to Japan on vacation!

In this lesson, you'll learn the easiest way to ask "What time does the next train come?" or "What time does something start?" in Japanese.

Han, Meaning "Half-Past"

Han expresses the concept of "thirty minutes," or "half past." Pay attention to the word order, since it's different from English.

For Example:

1. 4:30 → *yo-ji han*
2. 8:30 → *hachi-ji han*

[A] *wa nan-ji desu ka*, Meaning "What time is [A]?"

To ask "What time does [something] come?" or "What time does [something] start?" we say "What time is [something]?" in Japanese. You can ask about the schedule using the [A] *wa nan-ji desu ka*? sentence pattern.

Formation

- **[A] *wa nan-ji desu ka.* → "What time is [A]?"**
  **Nan-ji* is a question word meaning "What time?"*

For Example:

[A]	*WA*	*NAN-JI DESU KA.*	"ENGLISH"
Densha	*wa*	*nan-ji desu ka.*	"What time is the train?" or "What time does the train come?"
Mītingu			"What time is the meeting?" or "What time does the meeting start?"
Pātī			"What time is the party?" or "What time does the party start?"

Sample Sentences

1. A : *Tsugi no basu wa nan-ji desu ka.*
   B: (*Tsugi no basu wa*) *Ni-ji han desu.*
   A: "What time does the next bus come?"
   B: "(It comes) At two-thirty."
2. A : *Nihongo no kurasu wa nan-ji desu ka.*

B: (*Nihongo no kurasu wa*) *San-ji han desu.*
A: "What time does the Japanese class start?"
B: "(It starts) At three-thirty."

Reference

- *sumimasen* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 4
- *-wa doko desu ka?* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 13

Key Vocabulary & Phrases

★ つぎの (*tsugi no*)
In the dialogue, we heard the phrase *tsugi no densha*, which translates to "the next train." *Tsugi* means "next," and when it's followed by a noun, you need to insert *no*.

***tsugi no* [noun] → "the next [noun]"**

For Example:

1. ***tsugi no*** *basu*
   "the next bus"
2. ***tsugi no*** *eki*
   "the next station"
   * *eki* = "station"

★ でんしゃ (*densha*)
Densha means "train." Let's check the names of some vehicles in Japanese!

JAPANESE	"ENGLISH"
densha	"train"
chikatetsu	"subway"
basu	"bus"
takushī	"taxi"

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Grammar

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Below is a list of the grammar points introduced or used in this lesson. Click for a full explanation.

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